



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Coconino National Forest
Red Rock Ranger District

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File Code: 2230
Date: November 13, 2003

Mr. Bruce Johnson
Bar D Cattle Company LLC
2909 West Belmont
Phoenix, Arizona 85051

Dear Bruce:

This letter will serve as the 2003 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Beaver Creek Allotment, documenting the livestock grazing use and management instructions for the period of time from March 1, 2003 to February 29, 2004.

Your current ten-year term permitted livestock numbers are for 550 head of cattle (cow/calf/bull) for a yearlong grazing season and 480 to 600 yearling cattle from May 15 to October 15 grazing season.

On March 7, 2003 your grazing application for the first half of the 2003 grazing season was approved 200 cattle (cow/calf/bull) from March 1, to August 31. April 4, 2003 I approved 200 cattle (cow/calf/bull) for the seasonal portion (Landmark Unit) of your permit. The second half of the season was approved for 210 cattle (cow/calf/bull) from September 1 to February 29. And on September 16, 2003 I approved an additional 200 cattle (cow/calf/bull) from October 16, to February 28, 2004, but you have elected to fill only 109 head of the last 200 cattle permitted. Consequently actual use from to September 1 to February 28 is 309 head total.

My staff and I commend you for your voluntary reductions of 50-60% in permitted numbers during most the 2002-2003 grazing seasons; responding to 4 to 6 years of drought that we have experienced. And again due to the continued drought conditions on the allotment's winter range we anticipate that your current stocking of 309 head of cattle may need to reduced for use of the winter range pastures. Consequently we would like to schedule a field trip in early December to make an assessment of the current forage production levels and stock water availability within your winter range pastures. Contact Jerry Bradley at the District Office and arrange a time to meet with him.

Your 2003 grazing season's permitted livestock numbers for the Beaver Creek Allotment from March 1, 2003 to February 28, 2004 are as follows:



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Beaver Creek Range Allotment 2003 AOI

2003 Livestock Yearlong Herd Rotation

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	ALLOWABLE USE PERCENT
ROUND UP NORTH	12/25-1/8	200	50
DEADWOOD NORTH	1/9-1/23	200	50
ROUND UP SOUTH	1/24-1/28	200	50
OLD BULL NORTH	1/29-2/12	200	20% Woody or 35% Forage
LOWER WHITE MESA	2/13-2/29	200	50
UPPER WHITE MESA	3/1-3/25	200	50
MISS CINDY	3/26-4/7	200	20% Woody or 50% Forage
VALLEY NORTH	4/8-4/20	200	50
VALLEY SOUTH	4/21-4/25	200	50
OLD BULL SOUTH	4/26-5/2	200	50
DEADWOOD SOUTH	5/3-5/15	200	50
ROUND UP SOUTH	5/16-6/5	200	50
TINNEY SOUTH	6/6-6/24	200	50
NEW TANK SOUTHWEST	6/25-7/5	200	50
NEW TANK SOUTHEAST	7/6-7/20	200	50
BRADY SOUTH	7/21-8/2	200	50
GOSWICK	8/3-8/12	200	50
BANFIELD	8/13-8/20	200	50
BAR D SOUTH	8/21-9/1	210	50
TRIANGLE	9/2-9/12	210	50
SHIPPING PASTURE #3	9/13-9/20	210	50
SHIPPING PASTURE #1	9/21-9/25	210	50
SHIPPING PASTURE #2	9/26-10/1	210	50
SHIPPING PASTURE #3	10/2-10/7	210	50
BUCK MOUNTAIN	10/8-10/28	309	50
BAR D	10/29-11/20	309	50
HOLLINGSHEAD	11/21-12/10	309	50
GOSWICK	12/11-12/22	309	50
BRADY SOUTH	12/23-1/4	309	50
NEW TANK SOUTHEAST	1/5-1/17	309	50
NEW TANK SOUTHWEST	1/18-1/31	309	50
TINNEY SOUTH	2/1-2/14	309	50
ROUND UP SOUTH	2/15-2/29	309	50
DEADWOOD SOUTH	3/1-3/12	309	50

Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures Yearlong Permit 2003 Grazing Season

Tinney North	Upper Jacks	Lower Jacks
New Tank Northeast	New Tank Northwest	Happy Jack
Woodlands	Brady North	Antelope

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2003 Livestock Seasonal Herd (Landmark Unit) Rotation

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	ALLOWABLE USE PERCENT
Landmark Holding	5/15-5/30	200	40
Landmark North	6/1- 6/30	200	40
Prairie Dog	7/1-7/31	200	40
Landmark South	8/1-8/31	200	40
Triangle	9/1-9/31	200	40
Landmark Holding	10/1-10/15	200	40

Grazing Strategy

For Beaver Creek's yearlong permit - continue to graze livestock in an intensive rest half/graze half management strategy on alternate years in the allotment's high elevation summer ranges, with the transition (during drought conditions only) and winter ranges managed in an intensive deferred-rest rotation. Allowable use in the transition pastures will be 40 percent Permitted livestock (cow/calf/heifer/bull) will be run together as a single herd. Annually, spring branding and culling occurs in early June; with fall culling and shipping of stock to market taking place in late September, followed by the year's final culling and shipping in the last week of January.

The management of livestock pasture moves will continue to be based upon a plant forage phenology scheme of management. Winter range pastures grazed during the winter dormancy period will not exceed a time period of 30 days. In contrast, the allotment's summer range pastures that are grazed during the forage's active growing seasons the livestock graze period per pasture is shortened to periods of approximately 15 to 20 days. In the Allotment's North and South Winter riparian pastures, a graze period of 5 days must be met during the active riparian woody species' growing season.

The yearlong allotment's proper allowable use is 40 to 50% average use on pastures used by livestock, with the exception being 20% on woody species within the riparian pastures (see preceding Grazing Schedule Table). This grazing intensity coupled with the rested pastures will maintain ground cover to protect soils and maintain or improve quantity and quality of desired vegetation for proper rangeland and watershed conditions.

The allotment's summer (Landmark Unit) season's permit will be grazed in a deferred rotation grazing system for the five month season. Allowable use is set for 40 percent average pasture use. The herd this year was approved for a cow/calf, with bulls remaining with the cow herd season long, as a single herd. Culling and shipping of this Unit's herd will occur in October.

Livestock pasture moves will be completed with a five (5) day period. Due to the relatively small size of the allotment's pastures, gathering and movement of your permitted livestock should be completed during this five (5) day period. And it is imperative that once pasture moves occur, the livestock remain within the designated pasture. For various reasons, (i.e. pasture gates are left open, cattleguards are not maintained, fences are cut, etc.), cattle may stray from pasture to pasture. Prevention of stray livestock is the permittee's responsibility; whereby preventing grazing of adjacent allotments, grazing of your allotment's rested pastures, or regrazing of previously used

Beaver Creek Range Allotment 2003 AOI

pastures. Prevention of stray livestock protects the rangeland resources and the well being of your stock.

Grazing Mitigation Measures

Attached are additional grazing mitigation measures for the Peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owl, and Chiricahua Leopard Frog. Please review these attachments and understand what actions are required by you on your allotment for management compliance.

Resource Monitoring

Forage utilization monitoring cages are installed on this grazing allotment. Where possible, the cages are to be located within the following four Management Areas (MA's) and they include: MA 12 (riparian); MA 5 (aspen); MA 9 (mountain meadow) and MA 3 (ponderosa pine/oak). MA 5 (aspen) does not exist on this allotment; consequently, cages will be installed in the following areas for monitoring:

<u>Pasture Name</u>	<u>Management Area</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
Miss Cindy	12 (Riparian)	T15N, R6E, Section 16 SW1/4;
Banfield	9 (Mtn. Meadow)	T16N, R8E, Section 25 SE 1/4;
Bar D	3 (Pine/Oak)	T16N, R9E, Section 21 NE1/4;
Shipping #3	9 (Mtn. Meadow)	T15N, R10E, Section 11, SE1/4; and
Landmark North	9 (Mtn. Meadow)	T15N, R10E, Section 18, NW1/4.

These forage monitoring cages will be installed in representative "key area" locations on productive soils, 0 to 15% slopes, approximately 20 to 500 acres in size, and minimum of 0.25 to 1.0 miles away from livestock water sources. The cages will monitor forage utilization on designated "key species" in "key areas" during three crucial periods of the grazing season: immediately before livestock entry; immediately after the livestock graze; and lastly at the end of the forage growing season.

A Forage Utilization Spreadsheet, attached, will be completed by the grazing permittee during this 2003 grazing season. This monitoring will be completed by the ranch personnel with instruction and review from the District's Range staff Officers. The spreadsheet, identifies: individual pasture; pasture graze period; actual use livestock numbers; stage of plant growth, (fast, slow, dormant); average utilization of all forage species by pasture before livestock entry, following livestock graze and end of growing season; and identification of the pasture's "key species" and average grazing utilization percentage within the pasture's "key area(s)". The permittee will document the individual pasture's forage utilization percentage estimates by five categories of use; no use, light, moderate, heavy and extreme. Continue to implement and monitor grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions over time.

The monitoring of forage utilization by livestock and wildlife ungulates in the above management areas will provide an assessment of the allotment's grazing management, and permitted livestock, plus the numbers, wildlife big-game ungulates and their distribution. If upward utilization trends are observed, the District will coordinate with the grazing permittee and/or the Arizona Game and Fish Department to bring use within the Forest Land Management Plan's guidelines to promote and improve range and watershed conditions.

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The allotment's riparian and open water areas within Wet Beaver Creek proper have been fenced to control livestock grazing use and management. However, these very important and diverse areas will still be closely monitored by the District Range Staff and the permittee to insure proper allowable use met and where necessary grazing is restricted. The District will coordinate with you to improve and maintain riparian vegetative communities by promoting three age classes of woody vegetation. A 20% or less utilization of woody species is acceptable as all three classes of riparian vegetation are present

Range Improvements

The District has provided the ranch 5 miles of barbed wire fence material and three cattleguards; for the construction of division fence within the Bar D Pasture. The final phases of this fence construction will be complete this year, creating two pastures, 'Bar D' and 'Buck'.

"Permittee Maintenance Responsibilities of Range Improvements" have been identified in red color on the permit maps of your term grazing permit. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually as a minimum, to comply with permit requirements. Please notify the District Range Staff Officer, 60 days prior any maintenance of improvements where heavy-duty equipment is required, i.e. maintenance of earthen-dam stock tanks, because biological and cultural surveys and clearances are required.

Appeal Rights

Grazing permittees have appeal rights. Annual Operating Plan is appealable and subject to review under 36 CFR 251.82(a)(3), grazing and livestock term permits issued under 36 CFR part 222, subpart A. Appealable decisions apply to written decisions of Forest Service line officers related to issuance, denial, or administration of written instructions to comply and use National Forest System lands.

Permit Compliance

This 2003 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are a part of the Term Grazing Permit, as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a). If you fail to comply with any of the terms and conditions of specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing permit, the Forest Service may suspend or cancel your permit, in part or in whole, after written notice to you. This is found within Part 1, Section 3, of your Term Grazing Permit. This AOI is in compliance with the standards and guidelines found within the Coconino National Forest's Land Management Plan.

These Annual Operating Instructions have been reviewed by the District wildlife biologists and found consistent with the endangered species Act, as amended and with all conditions agreed to in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wildland Fire Prevention

Caution must be used during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket. Any internal combustion engine tools and equipment require inspection by qualified Forest fire personnel prior to use on National Forest Lands. All open camp and branding fires require a ten foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soils. All state and local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed. Report all fires to the Ranger District Offices at; Beaver Creek/Sedona (520/282-4119), Happy Jack (520/354-2216), Blue Ridge (520/477-2255) and the Flagstaff Zone Dispatch Office at (520/526-0600).

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Prescribed Burning

No prescribed burning is scheduled for your allotment this year. The District will coordinate with you in future burn projects to insure that range improvements are protected and other resources are properly accounted for.

Bruce, this AOI covers all the topics discussed during your grazing application meeting and several subsequent meetings that have followed to date. If you have questions or comments regarding this plan, please feel free to call Jerry Bradley

Sincerely

Ken Anderson

KEN ANDERSON
District Ranger

Enclosures

cc: Rodger Zanutto, S.O.; cc: Jerry Gonzales, Mogollon Rim R.D.;
cc: Larry Sears, Mogollon Rim R.D.

Beaver Creek Range Allotment 2003 AOI

Allotment Name: BEAVER CREEK

Year: 2003

Pasture Name	Graze Period Planned	Graze Period Actual	Livestock Numbers	*Plant Growth	**Before Livestock	**After Livestock	**End of Growing Season	**Key Species	% Use Key Area	LMP Mgmt Area
ROUND UP NORTH	12/25-1/8		200					Agsm		7
DEADWOOD NORTH	1/9-1/23		200					Agsm		7
ROUND UP SOUTH	1/24-1/28		200					Agsm		7
OLD BULL NORTH	1/29-2/12		200					Spcr/Pabo		11/7
LOWER WHITE MESA	2/13-2/29		200					Agsm		7
UPPER WHITE MESA	3/1-3/25		200					Agsm		7
MISS CINDY	3/26-4/7		200					Spcr/Pabo		11/12
VALLEY NORTH	4/8-4/20		200					Spcr/Pabo		11
VALLEY SOUTH	4/21-4/25		200					Spcr/Pabo		11
OLD BULL SOUTH	4/26-5/2		200					Spcr/Pabo		11
DEADWOOD SOUTH	5/3-5/15		200					Agsm		7
ROUND UP SOUTH	5/16-6/5		200					Kocr		7

*D = Dormant S = Slow Growth F = Fast Growth

**N = No use (0-10%) L = Light use (11-25) M = Moderate Use (26-50%) H = Heavy Use (51%-70%) E = Extreme Use (71+%)

Beaver Creek Range Allotment 2003 AOI

Allotment Name: **BEAVER CREEK**

Year: **2003**

Pasture Name	Graze Period Planned	Graze Period Actual	Livestock Numbers	*Plant Growth	**Before Livestock	**After Livestock	**End of Growing Season	**Key Species	% Use Key Area	LMP Mgmt Area
TINNEY SOUTH	6/6-6-24		200					Kocr		7
NEW TANK SOUTHWEST	6/25-7/5		200					Kocr		7
NEW TANK SOUTHEAST	7/6-7/20		200					Kocr		7
BRADY SOUTH	7/21-8-2		200					Kocr		3
GOSWICK	8/3-8/12		200					Kocr		3
BANFIELD	8/13-8/20		200					Kocr		3
BAR D SOUTH	8/21-9/1		200					Kocr		3
TRIANGLE	9/2-9/12		210					Kocr		3
SHIPPING PASTURE #3	9/13-9/20		210					Kocr		3
SHIPPING PASTURE #1	9/21-9-25		210					Kocr		3
SHIPPING PASTURE #2	9/26-10/1		210					Kocr		3
SHIPPING PASTURE #3	10/2-10/7		210					Kocr		
BUCK MOUNTAIN	10/8-10/28		309					Kocr		3

*D = Dormant S = Slow Growth F = Fast Growth

**N = No use (0-10%) L = Light use (11-25) M = Moderate Use (26-50%) H = Heavy Use (51%-70%) E = Extreme Use (71+%)

Beaver Creek Range Allotment 2003 AOI

Allotment Name: BEAVER CREEK

Year: 2003.

Pasture Name	Graze Period Planned	Graze Period Actual	Livestock Numbers	*Plant Growth	**Before Livestock	**After Livestock	**End of Growing Season	**Key Species	% Use Key Area	LMP Mgmt Area
BAR D	10/29-11/20		309						Kocr	3
HOLLINGSHEAD	11/21-12/10		309						Kocr	3
GOSWICK	12/11-12/22		309						Kocr	3
BRADY SOUTH	12/23-1/4		309						Kocr	3
NEW TANK SOUTHEAST	1/5-1/17		309						Kocr	7
NEW TANK SOUTHWEST	1/18-1/31		309						Kocr	7
TINNEY SOUTH	2/1-2/14		309						Agsm	7
ROUND UP SOUTH	2/15-2/29		309						Agsm	7
DEADWOOD SOUTH	3/1-3/12		309						Agsm	7

*D = Dormant S = Slow Growth F = Fast Growth

**N = No use (0-10%) L = Light use (11-25%) M = Moderate Use (26-50%) H = Heavy Use (51%-70%) E = Extreme Use (71+%)

Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl On Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans

The following mitigation measures would apply for Buck Springs, Bar-T-Bar, Willow Valley, Baker Lake/Calf Pen, Apache-Maid, Beaver Creek, Lost Eden, Fossil Creek, Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments.

The purpose of the mitigation measures is to improve and protect habitat for prey species such as birds and small mammals in sensitive areas, and to protect nesting birds from disturbance associated with gathering or construction activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. Follow these guidelines to meet the intent of the grazing guidelines listed in the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan :

A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas (MA12), meadows (MA9), pine/oak types (MA3), and aspen (MA5). If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, the Forest Service will work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.

B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.

C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.

2. To reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover, follow these guidelines for placing salt, mineral blocks or food supplements.

A. Do not place these items in riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non riparian drainages in ponderosa pine unless being used for a watershed restoration project.

B. Do not place these items in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine falcon nesting areas. The attached map shows areas (shown as mitigation) where salt, supplemental feeding, or mineral blocks should not occur.

C. Rotate salt and mineral supplement sites regularly.

3. To eliminate potentially disturbing activities in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine nesting areas during their breeding season, do not allow the following types of activities in areas displayed in red on the map between March 1 and August 31 without prior consultation with the district Range Staff.

A. Spring branding or fall gathering.

- B. Construction activities such as; new construction of fences, corrals, or buildings, or cleaning or construction of tanks.

Additional Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Allotments, Apache Maid, and Beaver Creek Allotments.

These allotments run in an east/west direction. On an ecosystem level, wildlife habitat conditions can be improved by coordination between adjacent allotments to provide alternating bands of rested pastures across the landscape. Each allotment should coordinate with the allotments directly to the north and south, so that all allotments are grazing northern pastures during the same year, or southern pastures during the same year.

For example, 13 Mile will coordinate with the Buckhorn allotment, and when 13 Mile is grazing pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. In order to implement this system, rest Tom's pasture every other year. This year, Buckhorn will change its plan to coordinate with this allotment management plan.

Buckhorn will coordinate with the 13 Mile allotment and Walker Basin. When 13 Mile is grazing north pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest its southern pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. Buckhorn will graze its northern pastures at the same time Walker Basin grazes its northern pastures.

Walker Basin will coordinate with the Buckhorn and Beaver Creek allotments.

Apache Maid will coordinate with Beaver Creek.

Beaver Creek will coordinate with Apache Maid and Walker Basin.

**Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13-Mile Rock,
Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock
Allotments
For Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon**

**Recommended Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13-Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and
Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments**

1. Follow the grazing guidelines listed in the MSO Recovery Plan:
 - A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in “key grazing” areas such as riparian areas, meadows and oak types. If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.
 - B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in “key areas” over time.
 - C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes of woody vegetation are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.
2. To reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover, follow the following guidelines for placing salt and mineral blocks.
 - A. Do not place salt in riparian areas and mountain meadows. Do not place salt in non-riparian drainages in ponderosa pine (MA3) unless being used for a watershed restoration project.
 - B. To avoid placing salt in PAC’s, use the following guidelines in these pastures:

Buckhorn Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Buckhorn	No mitigation
South Maxwell	No salt in T14N, R9E, Section 31
Dukey	No salt
Willow Valley	Salt only at Peck’s Tank #2 and East Tank
Clover	No salt at Trap Tank
Brushy	No salt
Oak South	No salt within .25 miles of West Clear Creek
Chilson Mesa	Salt tanks only except Flatrock Tank

1. Do not place salt blocks within 1 mile of West Clear Creek in the Dukey or South Maxwell pastures, or at trap Tank in the Clover Pasture to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover near the Tram Trail and Maxwell Trail eyries.

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13Mile Rock Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Meadow Canyon N.	No salt
Tule North	Salt only within .25 miles of 142B Road
Wilbur North	Salt only at Wilbur and Bueno Tanks
Toms	Salt only at Pothole, Idas, Back, Dead Tanks
Meadow Canyon S.	Salt south of Section 5 Tank only
Wilbur South	No salt within .2 miles Wilbur Canyon or tributaries

1. Do not place salt blocks within 1 mile of West Clear Creek in the Toms or Wilbur pastures to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover near the Tram Trail and Maxwell Trail eeries.

Walker Basin

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Steer	No salt south of Dozer Tank in the Steer Pasture

Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Potato North	Salt at tanks only, but not within .5 miles of Potato Lake Draw
Potato South	Salt at tanks only, but not within .5 miles of Potato Lake Draw
Bald 1	No salt
Bald 3	No salt
Bald 4	No salt east of 136A or 136B roads
West Bedbug	Salt only east of Cart Cabin Tank
Kehl	No salt in T12N, R10E, Sections 4, 9, and 33
Toms	No salt in T13N, R9E, Section 28
Sandrock	No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash
Miller	No salt in T12N, R10E, Section 33
Clear Creek	Salt only at tanks
Twenty-Seven Mile	No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash
Horse Pasture	Salt in private land only

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1. Do not place salt blocks in the south half of the Kehl pasture to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species cover near the Webber eyrie.

Additional Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Allotments, Apache Maid, and Beaver Creek Allotments.

These allotments run in an east/west direction. On an ecosystem level, wildlife habitat conditions can be improved by coordination between adjacent allotments to provide alternating bands of rested pastures across the landscape. Each allotment should coordinate with the allotments directly to the north and south, so that all allotments are grazing northern pastures during the same year, or southern pastures during the same year.

For example, 13 Mile will coordinate with the Buckhorn allotment, and when 13-Mile is grazing pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. In order to implement this system, rest Tom's pasture every other year. All allotments will change their plan, as necessary, to coordinate with this allotment management plan.

Buckhorn will coordinate with the 13 Mile allotment and Walker Basin. When 13 Mile is grazing north pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest its southern pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. Buckhorn will graze its northern pastures at the same time Walker Basin grazes its northern pastures.

Walker Basin will coordinate with the Buckhorn and Beaver Creek allotments. Apache Maid will coordinate with Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek will coordinate with Apache Maid and Walker Basin.

Mitigation For Chiricahua Leopard Frogs

Live fish, crayfish, bullfrogs, leopard frogs, salamanders, or other aquatic organisms shall not be moved among livestock tanks or other aquatic sites.

If a site is identified as occupied by Chiricahua leopard frogs, water shall not be hauled to the site from another aquatic site or tank that supports leopard frogs, bullfrogs, crayfish, or fish.

If Chiricahua leopard frogs are found on the allotment, the permittee shall be required to clean any equipment, boots, etc. used at an aquatic site and treat with a 10 percent bleach solution, or allow such equipment, boots, etc. to dry thoroughly, before using the same equipment, boots, etc. at another aquatic site on the allotment.

All ranch hands, construction personnel, and others implementing the proposed action shall be given a copy of these terms and conditions, and informed of the need to comply with them.

At least 60 days prior to maintaining or cleaning out livestock tanks, the permittee shall inform the Coconino of planned activities. The Coconino shall survey the tank for Chiricahua leopard frogs¹ and if frogs are found, shall work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and implement a plan to minimize take of frogs. Measures to minimize take should include salvage and temporary holding of frogs, limiting disturbance and work areas to the minimum area practicable, leaving stands of emergent vegetation in place, and/or measures to minimize the likelihood of disease transmission. Plans to minimize take shall be approved by the USFWS.

¹ Surveys shall include a night visit to prospective habitat during which all or at least 1,200 feet of the best habitat along creeks and the entire perimeter of tanks are searched for frogs. Surveys shall be carried out with flashlights/headlamps, and a dip net shall be used to sample for tadpoles and frogs concealed in undercut banks or at the base of emergent vegetation. Surveyors shall also listen for the distinctive call of the Chiricahua leopard frog (Davidson 1996) and watch for egg masses. Surveys shall be carried out from April-September when frogs are most active.